



Date: October 18, 2011

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Theodore L. Voorhees, Deputy City Manager
From: Mark D. Ahrendsen, Director of Transportation
Felix Nwoko, Transportation Planning Manager
Subject: 2011 Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) & New Freedom (NF) Grant Project Ordinances

Executive Summary

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has made available to the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) an annual apportionment of Section 5316, Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and Section 5317, New Freedom (NF) funds to enhance public transportation services in the DCHC-MPO area.

As required by the federal regulations, the City as designated recipient must receive these funds and distribute portions of the funds to the approved sub-recipients, DATA, Durham County ACCESS, Chapel Hill Transit and Suzie Taxi. Authorizing the execution of the grant project ordinance will allow the City to receive the JARC and NF funds, distribute portions to selected sub-recipients and leverage federal funding for approximately 50% of the project cost for the continuation of taxi and accessible shuttle services for DATA ACCESS. The grant project ordinances for JARC and NF grants are attached as Attachments A and B.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the City Council to authorize the City Manager to accept the City of Durham and US Department of Transportation-Federal Transit Administration-Section 5316, Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Grant by executing the grant documents; to adopt the City of Durham and US Department of Transportation-Federal Transit Administration-Section 5316, Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Grant Project Ordinance, in the amount of \$615,669.00; to authorize the City Manager to accept the City of Durham and US Department of Transportation-Federal Transit Administration-Section 5317, New Freedom Grant by executing the grant documents; and to adopt the City of Durham and US Department of Transportation-Federal Transit Administration-Section 5317, New Freedom Grant Project Ordinance, in the amount of \$253,260.00.

Background

As a result of the passage of the federal transportation law known as SAFETEA-LU, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) receives funding under FTA Section 5316 (JARC) and Section 5317 (NF) programs. The purpose of the funds is to provide grant money to select public and private transportation providers in

the region to enhance public transportation services in the area. The JARC program provides funds to improve access to employment and employment related activities for welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals and to transport residents of urbanized areas and non-urbanized areas to suburban employment opportunities. The New Freedom program funds projects beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 that reduce barriers to transportation services and expand the transportation mobility options available to people with disabilities. These programs require that projects be selected through a competitive process and approved by the TAC. The City of Durham is the designated recipient for the JARC and NF grant funds for DCHC MPO. As the receiving agency, the City of Durham must distribute funding approved by the DCHC MPO to selected sub-recipients.

These programs require that projects be selected through a competitive process and approved by the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). Accordingly, the TAC has awarded a total amount of \$471,464.00 (\$338,804.00 in JARC and \$132,660.00 in NF) to the Durham Area Transit Authority (DATA), Chapel Hill Transit (CHT), Durham County ACCESS and Suzie Taxi. These agencies are required to provide a local match in order to access JARC and NF funds. The apportionment of JARC and NF funds and the projects approved by the TAC are illustrated in attachment C.

Authorizing the execution of the grant project ordinance will allow the City to receive the JARC and NF funds, distribute portions to selected sub-recipients and leverage federal funding for approximately 50% of the project cost for the DATA ACCESS project.

Issues/Analysis

The JARC and the New Freedom funds are designed to enhance transportation service for the three transit systems and other transportation providers. DATA, Durham County ACCESS, Chapel Hill Transit and Suzie Taxi have been approved for the receipt of JARC and NF funds by the DCHC MPO. In order to receive the grant funds and pass-through these funds to Durham County, Chapel Hill and Suzie Taxi, the City must execute a grant project ordinance. Also, DATA's recent budget approved by City Council included an Accessible shuttle services for ACCESS that has approximately 50% of the funds programmed to come from this Section 5317 NF grant. Therefore without the NF funds the City must either pay more for the already approved service or eliminate the service altogether. Thus the reason for the recommendation contained herein, which avoids both of these outcomes.

Alternatives

- A. Authorize the execution of the JARC and NF Grant Project Ordinance which will allow the City to apply for and receive these funds and distribute portions to CHT, Durham County and Suzie Taxi. Funds will be available for DATA, Durham County, Chapel Hill Transit and Suzie Taxi to carry out their JARC and New Freedom projects approved by the TAC.
- B. If the City Council does not adopt the grant project ordinance, DATA, Durham County, Chapel Hill Transit and Suzie Taxi will not receive JARC and NF funds as authorized by the Transportation Advisory Committee of the DCHC MPO. The need to fulfill JARC and NF programs and activities in the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro urban area will not be met. Timing will prevent Chapel Hill Transit and Durham County ACCESS Transit from providing transit services to the elderly. Without JARC

and NF funds, the City would have to find an additional \$54,600.00 to fund DATA's accessible shuttle services.

Financial Impact

The total JARC and NF grant amount is \$471,464.00. Of this amount, \$374,004.00 is passed through to Chapel Hill Transit, Durham County, Suzie Taxi and \$97,460.00 is available to the City of Durham. Local matching funds are provided by Chapel Hill, Durham County and Suzie Taxi. The City of Durham match of \$54,600.00 is included in DATA's FY 2012 budget (5310U051-728610).

SDBE Summary

Due to the nature of these agreements, the City SDBE summary is not needed. Agencies receiving federal grant funds are required to comply with the US Department of Transportation DBE requirements.

Attachments

Attachment A – JARC Grant Project Ordinance

Attachment B – New Freedom Grant Project Ordinance

Attachment C – JARC and New Freedom 2011 Program of Projects